

Francis Y. Kelson  
PSC 450 Box 826  
APO AP 96206  
17 January 2000

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

JAN 27 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission.  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Reference: Wormser, Adsit & Dinelli  
Petition for Reconsideration  
WT Docket 98-143  
Report & Order FCC 99-412

**PURPOSE:** In support of the Petition by Wormser, Adsit, & Dinelli. To reconsider, and modify, in part, the report, and order, FCC 99-412 released December 30, 1999.

Dear Sir:

In 1954 I was able to pursue the Novice class license, and through that interest I acquired an Associate degree in electronics. I then obtained my General class license, and years later my Extra class license in 1985. Yes it took time, application, and study.

From what I understood it was the Commissions goals to maintain the amateur radio service as a fundamentally technical service, and to attract technically minded individuals with the purpose of advancing their skills?.

When I retired from the military in 1976, I found myself employed as an electronic technician. My years of amateur radio experience held me in good stead, and was rated as an Senior Service Technician. On contract to the US Army through a civilian company, I was several times awarded the Army's Certificate of Merit as an electronic technician. I finally made the transition into computer technology, and was employed on a GEODESIC Site as a computer technician, I finalized my second career as a computer technician on helicopter simulated flight systems. Yes! It also took time, application, and study.

At one time while in Vietnam's furthest Northern area searching for a downed pilot my morse skills saved approximately 20 men. A US Navy jet flew quite low over us,

No. of Copies rec'd 045  
List ABCDE

**and I noticed the heliograph flashing from his cockpit. I instantly deciphered it as "B52 strike 5 minutes", I gave the OK signal by the use of thumb, and forefinger, and he departed, as we made extreme haste to also depart the area. Despite the numerous communications personnel with us, I was the only one that was capable of reading morse.**

**I wonder if the Commission is aware that presently Soviet Tank crews are taught to communicate between themselves via high speed telegraphy. They use this mode in their battle order of events while in the field, to relay target detection information, fire commands, and tactical movements. Why!.**

**Special units of the US Military and certain other organizations are presently being instructed, and use morse as a means of communicating. Why?**

**It is a well known fact that the present technology of semiconductor devices will be rendered useless in the event of an nuclear incident from EME effect.**

**Point of fact! During Operation Desert Storm the communications that was employed were rendered useless in the first days of the operation due to lightning effect, and static electrical phenomen, lightning travel along the surface of the desert floor. Had our forces been engaged against a dedicated sophisticated enemy it would have been a disaster. Many of the Airborne units broke out old hand cranked radio , and battery operated communications equipment, and due to the severence of high static maintained communications by the use of morse code.**

**Many planeloads of old Collins vacuum tube radios were airlifted in to supplement communications.**

**Events could be quite similar in the U.S. at some point in time due to the increased problems of natural disaster, and other possible events. It would be prudent to have a ready source of Proficient trained personnel that are capable of many modes of communications, and the use of small low battery drain devices.**

**The reduction process that has been going on for the last twenty years or so, makes it painfully evident that there was little thought given to the problems at hand, and more credence given to the voice of manufactures, rather than to the community at large. This will most certainly cause the further decline, of emerging personnel whom are able to build, and repair their own communications equipment. We dont need to lose any more Mars space probes!. Nor do we need radio equipment manufactured in Asia, and encased (boxed) in the United States for sale.**

**There must be an avenue left open for incentive, to inspire, and instill pride through**

knowledge, and further enhance our Nations capability to meet the demands of the new millenium. This balance must be opened, and available to all regardless of their economic stature, not with the capability of purchasing equipment that cost thousands of dollars merely to play with, and operate.

With the present trend in motion, it implys that the Commission will eventually create a dedicated Corp of "Homer Simpson's" whose technical expertise will be relegated to turning on, and off the appliances that they have purchased.

The enlightenment of computer technology has made a drain in the amateur ranks, due to whole, or in part, involving the cost of amateur radio equipment, many households cannot support two habits, but the new breed of amateur emerging through the ranks of Low Power Communications "QRP" are starting to blossom world wide with their newly aquired ability of constructing, maintaining, and operating their simple equipment.

These are the people who will eventually emerge as our Nations leaders in the field of science, and technology.

The present avenue that the Commission has provided for the Technician, and General class is somewhat adequate, basicaly this is how I started, and will still give our less fortunate brothers whom have lost their auditory senses a means of joining our ranks.

The reduction in standards for the Extra class is no solution to expanding the ranks of amateurs. In fact I consider it a dis-service to the Nation, and the people of the United States, it will be a matter of easy come, easy go!. If they cannot pass a simple examination based on radio theory, and electronics, then it should be anticipated that they will never contribute to the art of communications.

This order of balance could not in anyway burden the Commissions work load. As a prior VE for several years I whole heartedly concurr with the contents of the Wormser, Adsit, & Dinelli Petition, and further request the Commissons office to reconsider, and modify, in part, the report, and order, FCC 99-412 released December 30, 1999.

Respectfully Yours

  
Francis Y. Kelson

US Army Retired

N8HI